



# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**HON. JOSEPH C. LORIGO**

**10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT LEGISLATOR**

**MAJORITY LEADER**

October 5, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you concerning the federal budget proposal to eliminate the State and Local Tax (SALT) Deduction for Federal Income Tax. As you are undoubtedly aware, millions of people throughout the United States, and more specifically, Erie County, New York, utilize the SALT Deduction on their federal income tax filing every year. This deduction not only encourages home ownership, but in Erie County goes one step further becoming part of the calculus for potential buyers in determining what they can afford in setting a budget.

In light of the fact that New York State is the highest taxed state in the country, I believe my constituents will be negatively affected by the elimination of the SALT Deduction. Just this week, in my hometown of West Seneca, New York, the Town Board has proposed a 12% property tax increase. That is absurd, and evidence that we are in dire need of tax reform and assistance from the federal level all the way down to the local municipal level.

As a County Legislator representing seven towns and one village in Erie County, New York, I have made lowering the property tax rate a priority during my three terms. In fact, I worked with legislators from four different political parties to eliminate an \$8.5 million tax increase, and then provide three consecutive tax rate decreases. I believe this type of bipartisan cooperation is something that needs to happen in all levels of government.

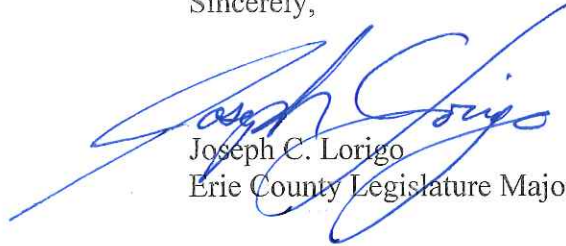
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While I realize that things work differently in Washington, I can't stress enough the importance of working together to enact real tax reform and provide real tax relief for our citizens. Eliminating the SALT Deduction may work well in lower-taxed states, but it would be an immense hardship for the hard working men and women in my Legislative District. As a result, I implore you to work with Congress to find a better solution that will not penalize those of us trapped in tax-heavy areas like West Seneca, New York.

In conclusion, I appreciate your time and attention to this letter. I truly believe this is an important issue that affects everyone in the United States, and also my legislative district. It is important for leaders at all levels to work together to provide the much needed tax relief, including tax relief related to home ownership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph C. Lorigo", is written over the printed name and title.

Joseph C. Lorigo  
Erie County Legislature Majority Leader